

the Auditor General, the deputy ministers and officials of the various departments, and the heads of crown corporations and agencies, all of which materially assisted the investigation and is gratefully acknowledged.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

Mr. WINCH: Mr. Chairman, if you have in mind what I have, may I state that I feel certain that all members of the public accounts committee would like to convey through you to all these gentlemen our appreciation of their courtesy in coming here this morning at our opening meeting and giving us a breakdown of their duties and their responsibilities. I feel very certain that is going to prove most valuable to us in the method by which we tackle the responsibilities which are imposed on us as members by the House of Commons. May I also, sir, just add that we appreciate very much the statements made by each and every one of them that they are at the service of this committee. If I can speak, sir, from past records of this public accounts committee, I can assure them that in the fulfillment of our responsibility we most certainly will be calling upon them, and I know that from what they have all expressed we will receive not only their fullest cooperation but also their advice in helping this committee. I would therefore like to say thank you on behalf of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that you leave the next meeting to the call of the Chair some time in the new year. Of course the steering committee will be called into session, and at that time I would hope that we would have a much more detailed report to submit to you for your approval as to the direction in which we should go and as to the type of work we should do.

Mr. CARON: Could I suggest that the printed report of this sitting of today be sent to the private addresses of the members who are going to be away for a month so that they have a chance to look at it?

The CHAIRMAN: It is agreed.

Gentlemen, If there is nothing further I would like to adjourn this meeting.

Mr. OLSON: May I take it from your remarks, Mr. Chairman, that you intend to call the steering committee before the end of the session, or is it after?

The CHAIRMAN: After. Thank you for coming.